

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/823,905

Examiner

Corey M. Broussard

Applicant(s)

DARR ET AL.

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment after Non-Final Filed November 29, 2005.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18 and 20-29.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-18 and 20-29 allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in independent apparatus claim 1 and at least in part, because claim 1 recites: "...an extension member having an outer surface, the outer surface having a curvature complementary to a curvature of the cylindrical fuse body ... a curved backing layer adjacent said secondary fuse link, the backing layer having a major surface and a minor surface peripheral to the major surface, the major surface having a curvature complementary to the curvature of the extension member ...".

The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claim 1 is believed to render said claim 1 and all claims currently dependent therefrom patentable over the art of record.

The closest reference to the present invention is believed to be Douglass et al. (PN 6,566,996).

Douglas teaches an extension member and backing layer, but did not disclose "...an extension member having an outer surface, the outer surface having a curvature complementary to a curvature of the cylindrical fuse body ... a curved backing layer adjacent said secondary fuse link, the backing layer having a major surface and a minor surface peripheral to the major surface, the major surface having a curvature complementary to the curvature of the extension member ...".

3. The allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in independent apparatus claim 22 and at least in part, because claim 22 recites: "...an extension member having an outer surface, the outer surface having a curvature complementary to a curvature of the cylindrical fuse body ... a flexible backing layer coupled to said extension member and adjacent said secondary fuse link, said flexible backing layer assuming the curvature of the extension member when secured thereto and maintaining said secondary fuse link in position ...".

The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claim 22 is believed to render said claim 22 and all claims currently dependent therefrom patentable over the art of record.

The closest reference to the present invention is believed to be Douglass et al. (PN 6,566,996).

Douglas teaches an extension member and backing layer, but did not disclose "...an extension member having an outer surface, the outer surface having a curvature complementary to a curvature of the cylindrical fuse body ... a flexible backing layer coupled to said extension member and adjacent said secondary fuse link, said flexible backing layer assuming the curvature of the extension member when secured thereto and maintaining said secondary fuse link in position ...".

4. The allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in independent apparatus claim 29 and at least in part, because claim 29 recites: "... an insulative extension member having a body defining a substantially cylindrical outer surface and defining a cavity extending from the cylindrical outer surface ... a backing

layer coupled to said extension member ... being flexed to conform to the cylindrical shape of the extension member ...”.

The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claim 29 is believed to render said claim 29 and all claims currently dependent therefrom patentable over the art of record.

The closest reference to the present invention is believed to be Douglass et al. (PN 6,566,996).

Douglas teaches an extension member and backing layer, but did not disclose “... an insulative extension member having a body defining a substantially cylindrical outer surface and defining a cavity extending from the cylindrical outer surface ... a backing layer coupled to said extension member ... being flexed to conform to the cylindrical shape of the extension member ...”.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corey M. Broussard whose telephone number is 571 272 2799. The examiner can normally be reached on Flextime.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on 571 272 2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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PRIMARY EXAMINER